O.C.B. Telephone Exchanges in Hamirpur

†3808. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to set up OCB Telephone Exchanges based on latest technique of communications in the District of Hamirpur, Bilaspur and Ooni of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) There is no plan with the Government at present to set up OCB telephone exchanges based on latest technique of communications in Hamirpur, Bilaspur and Ooni Districts of Himachal Pradesh. The existing CDOT MAX-XL exchanges working in these areas are fully meeting the requirement. However, it is planned to provide an independent OCB Trunk Automatic Exchange at Hamirpur in the year 2002-2003.

Telephone arrears

3809. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge arrears of telephone bills are pending from several subscribers including the Central and State Governments;

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the arrears pending as on the 31st December, 2001;

(c) what steps are being taken to liquidate the arrears;

(d) whether Government are contemplating to introduce pre-paid telephone bills; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. While the accumulated arrears due to defaults/delays in payment over the last ten years amount to Rs. 4866 crores on 31.12.2001, the amount billed for in the same period came to Rs. 130172 crores. The outstandings are thus just 3.7% of the total revenues, which is the amount a Company normally provides for under Bad Debt. Out of all the subscribers billed in a year, normally less than about 3% default on payment. Circle-wise statement is furnished in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(c) The steps being taken to recover the arrears are:

1. Targets for liquidation of outstandings are set and performance monitored against them by BSNL/MTNL HQ each year.
2. Incentive to staff has been enhanced for early recovery of dues.
3. High Power Committees and Liquidation Boards have been set up in the Circles of BSNL and MTNL to facilitate liquidation of dues.
4. The collection efficiency of Circles is monitored each month.
5. The circles of BSNL/MTNL are being regularly pursued to apply revised tariffs, issue bills promptly and do prompt disconnection for non-payment.

(d) and (e) Telephone bills are cleared by post-payment at present. However, BSNL and MTNL also have a Voluntary Deposit scheme in operation for subscribers, against which their subsequent bills can

be adjusted. The bills are also sent to the subscriber, indicating the balance of Voluntary Deposit at credit. Interest is also paid on these deposits. In addition, BSNL and MTNL have introduced virtual calling cards (VCCs) extensively.

Statement

Circle-wise details of arrears as on 31st December, 2001.

(in thousand of rupees)

Circle	State Govt.	Central Govt.	Defence	Private Parties	Total
Delhi	17055	162684	37521	6502258	6719518
Mumbai	23500	15500	9200	3990400	4038600
A&N	8486	3838	4602	29803	46729
AP	96524	3476	1020	3873238	3974258
Assam	148872	74744	39339	674757	937712
Bihar	166150	22057	477	1485376	1674060
Gujarat	10593	4295	749	2771060	2786697
Haryana	5844	4587	2699	882611	895741
HP	9918	1317	2196	157278	170709
J&K	131239	16618	8296	400310	556463
Jharkhand	109996	28847	5339	760863	905045
Karnataka	44050	13823	0	2392901	2450774
Kerala	22663	4498	0	738155	765316
MP	133053	40370	2909	1087425	1263757
Maharashtra	82140	36363	31612	4168830	4318945
NE-I	42633	5686	1458	409970	459747
NE-II	556667	15155	12264	794189	1378275
Orissa	101514	1518	1349	598338	702719
Punjab	33935	17991	6523	1650497	1708946
Rajasthan	12853	3926	3695	574818	595292
Tamil Nadu	16630	3848	235	1284729	1305442
UP (E)	207636	69046	18767	3526336	3821785
UP (W)	41318	14160	3994	1315698	1375170
WB	124010	67564	32005	966709	1190288
Calcutta	29835	16938	7820	2461264	2515857
Chennai	5863	9895	2007	1573457	1591222
Chattisgarh	7844	428	0	324311	332583
Uttranchal	16775	3689	794	160996	182254